

REMARKS

The Examiner's attention to the present application is noted with appreciation.

Correct spelling of Tritonal is provided to the specification and claims by amendments, above.

The Examiner provisionally rejected claims 1-21 on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting over claims 14 and 5-8 of Sheridan et al. In order to expedite allowance of the application, Applicants are willing at the appropriate juncture to submit a terminal disclaimer to obviate the rejection.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-13, 15, and 17-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Danen et al. ("Danen") and claims 14 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Danen. The rejections are traversed, particularly as to the claims as amended.

The present invention, as claimed, utilizes pure metal hydrides and/or metals with hydrogen interstitials. Danen does not. Hydrides and metals with insterstitial hydrogen are fundamentally different than the pure metals described in Danen, as insufficient hydrogen gas is produced in the reaction products of the pure metals. The Examiner states that "Danen teaches that the reacting materials may include aluminum, titanium, magnesium, lithium and hydrides thereof," but the only reference to metal hydrides in Danen is the mention of an AlH₃ organometallic adduct. This adduct is not a pure metal hydride as claimed in this application, and generates a number of undesired byproducts upon ignition. Accordingly, Danen actually teaches away from the use of pure metal hydrides or metals with interstitial hydrogen.

The Examiner rejected claims 5, 8, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Makowiecki et al. ("Makowiecki"). The rejection is traversed, particularly as to the claims as amended. Mackowiecki has the same deficiencies as Danen in that it does not teach the inclusion of pure metal hydrides or metal with interstitial hydrogen in the formulation of energetic material compositions.

Being filed herewith is a Petition for Extension of Time to July 20, 2006, with the appropriate fee.

Authorization is given to charge payment of any additional fees required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Acct. 13-4213. A duplicate of this paper is enclosed for accounting purposes.

An earnest attempt has been made to respond to each and every ground of rejection advanced by the Examiner. However, should the Examiner have any queries, suggestions or comments relating to a speedy disposition of the application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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